

MUSTANG DAILY

California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo

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Uprising, Poly style



T. SHANE GILMAN/Mustang Daily

Civil disobedience is alive and well at Cal Poly, as illustrated by a bike parked in outright disregard of the "no inner-campus biking" law.

Cal Poly writing exam results show an almost 40-percent failure rate

By Karen Kendzor

Staff Writer

Students with plans to march to "Pomp and Circumstance" in the fall may have English barriers standing in their way.

Only 62 percent of the students taking the Cal Poly Writing Proficiency Examination are passing it, said Mary Kay Harrington, head of the English department.

"Partly it may be that students don't write enough in their own majors to help maintain writing standards and writing practice," said Harrington. "I think some majors just don't write very much."

The examination is generally given the third Saturday of each quarter except summer and is required of all graduating seniors, said Harrington. The 90-minute essay exam asks students to respond to a specific question, sometimes based on a quotation, sometimes asking for a solution to a problem. Students are asked to argue for a position to show the readers how they think, she said.

"Some people feel anxiety and haven't learned to write in a situation where they're under pressure," said Harrington.

Workshops are offered in the writing lab, located in Room 138 of the Erhart Agriculture building, prior to the exam to help students understand strategies for passing it, she said. Students are given sample questions so that they know what to expect. They are taught how to outline in order to generate ideas, how to write from their strengths and the importance of writing about what they know.

"Students who have problems writing are

probably going to end up out in the world finding out too late," Harrington said. "The best we can do is offer a writing lab for them to come to. It's a difficult problem, especially at a technical school."

The School of Agricultural usually produces the lowest results, said Harrington.

"Generally, they pass it at about 50 percent," she said. "Perhaps when the students do write, the professors don't spend enough time talking to students about how they express themselves; how that is as important as what the content is."

Harrington said the exams are scored in a way that addresses the paper as a whole: its organization, development and expression. Each exam is read by at least two faculty members representing all schools at Cal Poly.

"One of the most important aspects of holistic scoring is that the reader is encouraged to look at what students have done well rather than what they have failed to do," said Harrington.

Harrington said there are teachers out there insisting on good writing. Math Professor Art Dekline requires his students to write every week discussing some point in mathematics, said Harrington. The engineering department has English graduate students grading papers. The business department tries very hard as well, said Harrington.

"We need to start writing across the curriculum to make sure that at some point in every classroom students are encouraged to write," said Harrington. "I think until we do that this university really won't be as

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Health Center STD caseload remains constant

By Julie Gieringer

Staff Writer

But don't be misled by Cal Poly's statistics, says educator

The rate of sexually transmitted diseases has remained fairly consistent on this campus within the past two years, according to statistics obtained by the health educator for student health services.

During the 1987-88 school year 75 percent of those tested at the Health Center for genital herpes tested positive, 7 percent of those tested for chlamydia were positive, and none of those tested for gonorrhea were positive.

During the 1988-89 school year 67 percent of those tested for genital herpes tested positive, 5 percent of those tested for chlamydia were positive, and

none of those tested for gonorrhea were positive.

About six new cases of genital warts are seen each week at the Health Center, but genital warts were not tested for in previous years, said Health Educator Carolyn Hurwitz.

However, these statistics may not accurately represent the Cal Poly campus, because many students go to private doctors or other agencies within the community rather than the Health Center, Hurwitz said.

Hurwitz said students may go to other agencies because they are worried about confidentiality at Cal Poly, but she said student

employees at the Health Center do not handle the files and employees are required to sign confidentiality papers.

"We should be seeing a decrease in the number of sexually transmitted diseases because of AIDS education," said Pam Dudley, supervising public nurse at the San Luis Obispo County Health Department. She said, however, that she is not aware of any studies that support that information.

"In the county, statistics show there is an increase of chlamydia because it is being tested for more. Ten years ago they didn't test for chlamydia," Dudley said.

Areas such as college campuses, where large homogeneous groups of people are together, pose a higher risk of exposure to sexually transmitted diseases, or STD's, because there is a larger population of sexually active people, Dudley said.

Dudley added she doesn't see any big difference between the statistics of our county and other counties in California, though.

"About two years ago we (San Luis Obispo County) had a mini-outbreak of syphilis, but that was due to prostitution," Dudley said.

"When you ask students about prevention of STD's, most are

knowledgeable, but few have changed their behavior," said Dr. James Nash, director of the Health Center. "We are certainly selling more condoms, though."

Currently, there are 20 condom vending machines on campus, Nash said.

No sexual exposure is the safest way to avoid sexually transmitted diseases, Nash said.

Other ways to avoid exposure are forming a monogamous relationship, using condoms, learning common symptoms of STD's and avoiding the use of drugs, including alcohol, in potentially intimate situations.

2

A tough choice...

Settle vs. Dunin.
Dunin vs. Settle.
Who will *you* elect as mayor? Find out what some Poly students said.

4

Hot Hot Hot...

A fire at the Union Station Bar & Grill has temporarily closed the restaurant. Don't worry, the popular eatery will be up in about three weeks.

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In INSIGHT...

Wheelchair users on campus want awareness, not sympathy. Learn more about these 'able bodied' people.

MUSTANG DAILY

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The newspaper for Cal Poly. Since 1916.

Opinion

Commentary



Values cloud goals of education

By Dean Wendt

The values our society holds in high esteem have metamorphosed the purpose of education. Education that was once an end in itself has been reduced to the means to an end that includes wealth and luxury.

Before, education was pursued for self development and wisdom, but now it is pursued for wisdom of finance and the development of a bank account. I bet if we think back to our childhoods, we remember education being encouraged by our parents and teachers who said, "You don't want to be working at a Taco Bell for the rest of your life." Hence, we have such statements as: "You need to get an education so you can get a job and become something."

Education has so much to offer, and to reduce its worth to that of a ticket to a good job is disgracing the original intention of education. A job and financial independence are things an education should enable one to obtain, but they must be seen for what they are: byproducts.

The true purpose behind an education is to develop the inside of ourselves, not the outside. We need to explore philosophies and ideas and ways to apply them in our lives.

The general education classes are just as, if not more, important than major classes. Remember they are designed to give students "breadth," which makes us whole people. But many times students say, "It's only a general education course," or, "I don't care; it's not even in my major." These things are said because all we want or expect from an education is a way to get our material fix and social status.

These should not be the solitary reasons for the pursuit of an education. If they are, education is lowered in status. It is only a piece of paper saying you have a degree and a right to a job.

The knowledge that could be obtained is wasted because it has no value in itself. It only acts as a bridge to cross the waters of existence to the world of wealth and status. We need to stop and ponder the water.

How do we get off this road to educational

wasteland? We need to change our personal values of wealth and luxury. The question arises, "How can material madness have anything to do with the purpose of education?" Believe it or not, it does. Our goal is not to be educated, but too often to become materially successful and socially acceptable.

This is created by our present values that manifest themselves from our ghettos to the White House. We accept and respect people with money, not education.

The gangs sell drugs not because being a drug dealer is something they are aspiring to, but because they think it is the simplest and most effective way to gain status and respect. At Cal Poly, a lot of us are striving for the same things; our way is just believed to be more ethical.

The people running our country are not the ones with the most developed minds, but in most cases are the people with the money, or the people that will benefit the ones with the money.

As individuals, we have to become secure. We have to put an end to the ongoing manipulation of ourselves by advertising companies. They make us believe we aren't acceptable without designer clothes, designer cars and designer personalities.

I'm not asking anyone to have one pair of jeans, one T-shirt and a house with no windows, but is it necessary to own a \$50,000 car, enough clothes so as not to be seen in the same outfit for two weeks and a 7000-square-foot house?

Until we control our abundant desires, we are destined to be masked by insecurity and stagnation and will never receive or use a true education.

Teachers should begin to emphasize education for the knowledge that will be obtained, not the job that will be offered. And students should begin to awe at the wisdom of Socrates and Plato, not the investments of Lee Iacocca and Donald Trump. Then possibly we will begin using our education to contemplate things worthy of our time and minds.

Dean Wendt is a natural resources management junior with an interest in philosophy.

Letter to the Editor

Red ribbon wearer challenges column

Editor — I was saddened by the angry, discouraging tone of Rob Lorenz's Oct. 27 column, "Hypocrites join ribbon campaign." Being a "do-gooder" is worth the risk of appearing hypocritical or self-righteous.

In our culture, there seems to be a strong belief in putting our own lives in order before trying to improve the lives of others. This may come from the old Christian teaching that you should not pull the splinter from the eye of another when you have a log in your own eye. Yet, taken to the extreme, this leaves everyone blind. If we wait to act

until our own lives are in order, we wait forever.

Resisting the attraction of drugs, including alcohol and caffeine, is difficult. It becomes a little less so when one has personal support.

Group support, or solidarity, can also help. One of the attractions of drugs is the solidarity, although a short-term kind, of the users.

Why not create an alternative form of solidarity, even if it, too, is short-term? It may help someone to resist peer pressure. It may give someone an excuse to change bad habits. This is why I chose to wear the little red ribbon.

David Sproul
Political Science

CORRECTIONS

In the "Killer costumes ..." photo that ran Oct. 31, the name of the executioner was misspelled. His name is Phil Stenbeck.

In the bowling alley photo that ran Oct. 31, the cutline should have read, "Mustang Lanes has been in the red since reopening in the winter of 1988."

Students on the Soapbox

Who are you going to elect for mayor? Why?



"(Allen) Settle. I'll vote for Allen because I don't know enough yet about the other guy. But I'll probably find out before I vote."

Vance Morgan
Landscape Arch. sophomore



"I haven't thought about it."

Steve Olander
Architecture junior



"Ron Dunin. He's more directly involved with the students. I think he's sincere."

Ryan Schmidt
Mechanical Engr. senior



"Allen Settle. Since this is a college town, it would be beneficial for us to have someone directly involved with the students."

Edie Maples
Recreation Admin. junior



"I'm leaning toward (Allen) Settle. I understand him to be more in the students' interest."

Anne Patton
Mathematics senior

Bush, Congress agree to minimum wage raise

Deal gives boost for the first time in nearly a decade

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush and the Democratic-controlled Congress agreed Tuesday to raise the hourly minimum wage to \$4.25 by April 1991, a compromise clearing way for the first increase in nearly a decade.

Both the White House and the Democrats made significant concessions to strike the deal, which for the first time since the minimum wage was established 50 years ago would allow

employers to pay a subminimum "training wage" to teen-agers with little work experience.

The compromise ends a lengthy and often bitterly partisan battle that pitted Democratic congressional leaders and organized labor against the Reagan and Bush administrations and business interests.

"No side will get a victory for this," said Rep. Augustus Hawkins, D-Calif., chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee. "We didn't want the training wage to begin with but we wanted to depoliticize the thing."

The deal was struck between White House chief of staff John Sununu, House Speaker Thomas

S. Foley and House GOP leader Robert Michel. Hawkins and other lawmakers prominent in past minimum-wage battles complained about being shut out of the talks. Some Democrats also said Foley conceded too much.

But they agreed to the deal, which was being drafted Tuesday and, barring unexpected disagreements over language, will be presented to the House on Wednesday as a substitute to a Democratic bill scheduled for a vote. Senate passage is expected to follow shortly.

Once signed by Bush, the legislation would trigger a 45-cent increase in the minimum wage on April 1, to \$3.80 an

hour, with the jump to \$4.25 coming a year later. The last increase in the minimum wage came in January 1981, when it increased from \$2.65 an hour to the current \$3.35.

The new subminimum, which could be paid to workers 16-19 years old for three months, and up to six months in some cases, would be 85 percent of the minimum wage.

Democrats and union leaders long have considered such a "training wage" unacceptable. However, it became clear that agreeing to the provision was the only way to win a general increase after conservative Democrats and moderate Republicans helped Bush sustain a veto of a

minimum-wage bill passed by Congress earlier this year.

In siding with Bush, those lawmakers argued that employers would be reluctant to hire youths for part-time and summer jobs if the minimum wage was increased without an accompanying subminimum.

For his part, Bush gave up nine months from his offer to increase the minimum wage to \$4.25 in January 1992, and he also conceded ground on the training wage. He had demanded a six-month provision for all workers regardless of their age and prior work experience.

The compromise affects only teen-agers, and will not affect those with 6 months experience.

EXAMS

From page 1
strong as it can be."

Harrington said it's the students who don't care very much. Students think they can just get a diploma and be fine, she said.

"A lot of people don't understand that once they get out into the real world, the students who don't know how to communicate are going to end up at entry-level positions and stay there."

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Associate Staff Engineer will work at our Madera facility and be responsible for development, design and testing of specialized parts for food machinery development projects.

INTERVIEWS, THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 2

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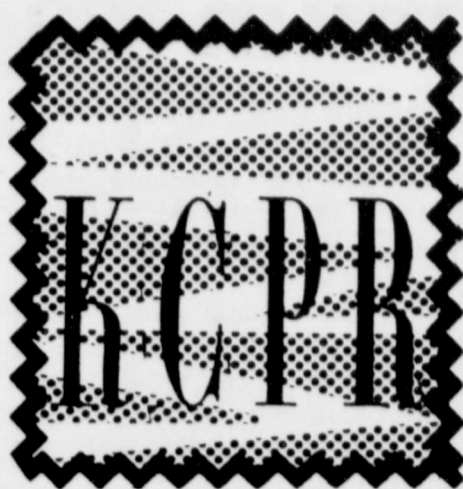
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Restaurant fire causes \$30,000 in damages

Grease cited for igniting afternoon blaze at Union Station

By Cyndi Smith
Staff Writer

A fire at a local restaurant Monday is being blamed on too much grease.

The Union Station Bar and Grill sustained about \$30,000 worth of damage when a small fire on the grill ignited the grease built up on the exhaust system, said owner Ted Sawzak.

"It was just years and years of built up grease that caught," he said. "We've cleaned it off before but obviously a lot of it was still there."

The fire department was called to the restaurant, located at 1020

Railroad Ave. in San Luis Obispo, at 12:39 p.m. on Monday, said department spokesperson Viv Dilts. The fire was contained within five minutes and fully put out in 20 minutes with help from 29 firefighters, five city fire engines, one Cal Poly engine, one fire truck and one squad vehicle.

"Osos Street, the main access road to Union Station, was closed for about four hours," said Ketti Patterson, a resident of the nearby Alpha Omicron Pi sorority house. None of the nearby structures suffered damage.

Cal Poly firefighter Randy Bello said it is standard practice

to send a Cal Poly truck to a fire off campus.

"We have mutual aid agreements where we assist them with off-campus fires and they assist us with on-campus fires," he said.

Sawzak described the damage to his restaurant, which did not have sprinklers.

"The whole kitchen burned up, and half of the wall leading to the upstairs is gone," he said.

Sawzak estimated that it would take about a month to rebuild the restaurant, and added that sprinklers would probably be installed this time. "We hope to reopen by Dec. 1."

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Informational Meeting: 11:00 a.m.
Thursday, November 2
Cal Poly Theatre Lobby

Deadline for Application: 5:00 p.m.
Friday, November 17

Short Takes

Red Cross to give quake safety class

The San Luis Obispo County Chapter of the American Red Cross is sponsoring a course entitled "Safety and Survival in an Earthquake." The course will be held on Saturday, Nov. 4 at the PG&E Promonotory Building at 406 Higuera St. The American Red Cross has developed this course to promote more individual awareness and response to disasters, particularly to the potential of an earthquake in your community. The course will also teach more about how to help yourself, your family and your neighbors to survive a major catastrophe and to prevent unnecessary injuries and damages before they occur.

The class will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will be no charge for the course, but there is an optional cost of \$3 for the workbook.

White cited for work on D.A.R.E.

The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Advisory Council has recognized Gary White of the Sheriff's Youth Crime Prevention Program for outstanding effort in the presentation of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program in the San Luis Obispo County Schools.

During the past 12 months, White has presented the nationally acclaimed D.A.R.E. program to more than 800 San Luis Obispo County sixth grade students.

The Sheriff's Advisory Council is made up of approximately 100

citizens of San Luis Obispo County and is dedicated to the support of all law enforcement agencies in the county.

Smokeout to plug tobacco non-use

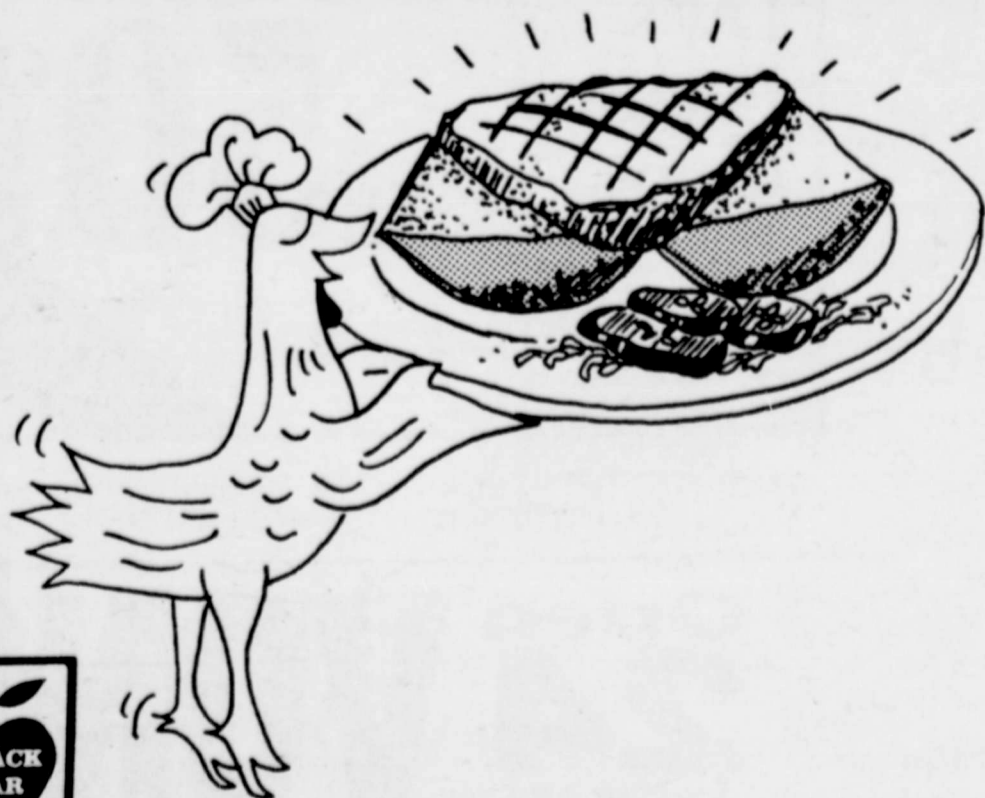
The American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout is set for Nov. 16. The annual national campaign encourages smokers to quit smoking for the day. According to the Cancer Society, more than 1 million Californians participated last year. The YMCA of San Luis Obispo County will be offering one month free memberships Nov. 13-16 as support for those who agree to quit all tobacco use (smoke or chew). For more information call the American Cancer Society at 543-1481.

Barbecue to help SF quake victims

A benefit barbecue will be held for Bay Area earthquake victims Thursday in Poly Grove. The luncheon barbecue, to be held from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., will cost \$3.00. All proceeds will be sent to the American Red Cross. Cal Poly's Green and Gold Barbecue crew — made up of volunteer staff and retirees — will be donating their services for the luncheon. Cal Poly Foundation will provide the hamburgers, chips and soda for the benefit. Tickets may be purchased in the ASI Business Office or at the barbecue.

Send press releases of events to Short Takes, Mustang Daily, Graphic Arts 226, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

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Awareness, not sympathy

Cal Poly physically disabled give 'able-bodied' new value

By Jay Garner

Bob Gibson's life was right on schedule in the summer of '78. An All-State pole-vaulter in high school, Gibson, then 17, had just been offered a track and field scholarship to Eastern Michigan University.

Then, suddenly, his life's schedule was altered.

Gibson was riding in a car when the driver lost control at about 120 mph. The car flew off the road, and slammed into a couple of trees. Gibson's back was broken; his spinal cord damaged to the point that he was paralyzed from the waist down.

"After I suffered the disability," Gibson said, "it was the question: Why me? Why did this happen to me? What did I do wrong?"

About eight months after the accident, Gibson, a recent Cal Poly graduate, became heavily involved in wheelchair track.

"Getting into track gave me a way to vent this anger in a positive way," he said. "It also gave me a way of building my self-esteem back up. Being involved in competitive athletics was a way in which I got feelings of satisfaction, feelings of accomplishment that helped carry over into all the other aspects of my life."

Gibson, like other wheelchair users, isn't looking for sympathy from able-bodied people — a term used only for distinction — he is looking for awareness of what he can do, not what he can't do.

"When it gets down to it," he said, "what do you use your legs for? Mobility, that's it. You use your arms for everything else. Well, the wheelchair takes care of the mobility problem ... as long as there's no stairs, and the doors are wide enough."

Thanks to the 1973 National Rehabilitation Act — which requires buildings to be accessible to wheelchair

users — Disabled Students Services has spent over \$1 million through the years on "barrier removal" at Cal Poly.

DSS is funded by the California State University Chancellor's office in Long Beach.

The money has been spent on constructing ramps, installing elevators and building curb cuts and handicapped parking spaces.

Beth Currier, assistant coordinator of DSS, said making Cal Poly more accessible benefits more than the three students, one faculty member and herself, a staff member, that are on-campus wheelchair users this quarter. The accessibility also benefits anybody with a mobility impairment such as people with a

heart condition, severe asthma, advanced AIDS and cancer. Also, senior citizens that visit campus, mothers with baby strollers and delivery men benefit from "barrier removal," she said.

"It is far cheaper spending \$1 million providing that access," Currier said, "to make sure we have a college education so we can become good, tax-paying citizens."

Gibson, who graduated in June, agrees. "You get disabled people to start working, start contributing to society (then) all of a sudden they're paying taxes. They're contributing to social security instead of taking



away from it."

Currier said when she lost the use of her legs, 35 years ago, wheelchair users were placed in institutions or sent to special schools. They were hidden from society.

She said access laws have enabled wheelchair users to come out into society, and show they are not bound to or by their wheelchairs. Societal awareness of what wheelchair users can do has grown tremendously in the past few years, although society still has a way to go, she added.

Rick Best — president of the ASI club Disabled Students Unlimited, and a wheelchair user — said that sometimes able-bodied people can be overly helpful.

"I really don't mind if you offer," Best said, "it's just that if I say no then basically I don't need help. Sometimes I'll be going up a hill and someone will just come up behind me and push me. It's really aggravating ... it's just like if you're walking and someone comes up and pushes you. You lose a sense of control."

Currier said she likes the new bike ban on the inner

perimeter of Cal Poly because there have been "numerous" incidents of bikers running into wheelchair users.

But she said there is a real problem with bikers chaining their bikes to the handrails on the accessibility ramps.

"They (the handrails) are not designed to chain bicycles to," Currier said. "They're designed for mobility impaired people to negotiate those ramps safely. If bikes are chained there, we no longer have the security of holding onto a rail."

But Currier emphasized that overall, Cal Poly is a very accessible campus for wheelchair users.

"Our campus has done a good

job," she said. "I've been on other campuses, and I'm very proud of Cal Poly."

Gibson plans to use his Cal Poly degree in recreation administration to work as a recreation therapist at Atascadero State Hospital. He will also continue racing competitively.

"I really like life," Gibson said. "I like what's happening to me. But, no, I don't like being in a wheelchair. No, I don't accept it; I probably never will. I live with it on a day-to-day basis. It's just something that happened to

me, and it's over. I could sit around and dwell on it for the rest of my life or I could move on. Life goes on, and so do I."



Gibson, like other wheelchair users, isn't looking for sympathy ... he is looking for awareness of what he can do, not what he can't do.



"People will see somebody in a wheelchair — and I've had this happen," Gibson said, "immediately they figure since I can't walk, more than likely I can't hear too well,

I can't see too well and they'll stoop down, get real close to me, talk really slow and really loud — kind of like when an American goes to a foreign country. It's irritating."

Gibson — who holds the national record 100 meter dash (16.8 seconds) and bench presses 320 pounds — said that through sports, public awareness is growing.

"People see on TV," he said, "people in wheelchairs going on 26-mile marathons, and all of a sudden they figure, well, wow, maybe these people can go to the grocery store and get their own groceries."

Jay Garner is a first-quarter reporter for the Mustang Daily and enjoys sports writing.

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Key witness clams up in LA murder trial

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A star witness in the trial of a man accused of hiring killers to murder his parents refused to testify.

Michael Dominguez, 30, who admitted acting as a lookout in the 1985 shooting deaths, refused to answer questions when called to the stand on Monday.

"I've decided not to testify," Dominguez said. "I just don't want to answer questions."

Stewart Woodman, 39, and Anthony Majoy, 51, were charged

with the shooting deaths of Woodman's parents, Gerald Woodman, 67, and Vera Woodman, 63.

Neil Woodman, Stewart's 45-year-old brother, and two other men still face trial in connection with the murders.

Prosecutors claim that the Woodmans hired two other men and Majoy to kill their parents in order to collect on a \$500,000 insurance policy.

The couple was shot to death as they returned to their Brent-

wood apartment from a family Yom Kippur gathering.

Dominguez, who is serving a prison sentence of 25 years to life after pleading guilty to murder, testified during a preliminary hearing that he got \$5,000 to act as a lookout during the crime.

But he wouldn't testify on Monday, saying he was concerned charges may still be pending against him. Deputy District Attorney Patrick Dixon said the prosecution has no charges pending against Dominguez.

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Bush, Gorbachev to hold summit in December

No agenda set yet for 2-day meeting in Mediterranean

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush announced Monday he would hold an unexpected, early summit with Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev on Dec. 2 and 3 aboard American and Soviet naval vessels in the Mediterranean. An announcement was also under way in Moscow.

"It's a chance to put our feet up and talk," the president said.

Bush said, "I made the proposal," for the meeting.

He said an arms control summit with Gorbachev will take place as scheduled next year, "separate and apart" from the two days of talks next month.

Bush said the Mediterranean meeting would be to permit the two men "to deepen our understanding." He said neither he nor Gorbachev expected

"substantial decisions" to be made in the two days of talks.

"In this time of change, I didn't want to miss something," Bush said. "I don't want to have two gigantic ships pass in the night because of failed communications."

He spoke at a hastily arranged news conference at the White House. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was making a simultaneous announcement in Moscow.

The unusual midwater summit was to be held one day on an American ship at sea, and the other day on a Soviet vessel.

Monday's surprise announcements in Washington and Moscow came at a time when Bush is under pressure from congressional Democrats to demonstrate more flexibility in responding to the dramatic changes in the Soviet Union and especially in other Eastern European countries, including Hungary and Poland.

Gorbachev is under pressure of

a different sort at home — to demonstrate that his policies of perestroika, or economic restructuring, can improve the daily lives of millions of Soviet citizens.

"Now that the meeting has been announced, I expected there will be an awful many suggestions as to the subjects to be discussed," Bush said.

He said there was no formal agenda but that the two men would discuss a "wide array of subjects." The president stressed that the success of the summit should not be judged on whether decisions on reached.

Bush said he originally proposed the idea of the summit in July, and got a "very prompt" and favorable reply from Gorbachev.

The full-scale Bush-Gorbachev summit next spring or summer in the United States was announced in September when Secretary of State James A. Baker III met with Shevardnadze in Wyoming.

A potential centerpiece is a

new treaty to sharply reduce long-range nuclear weapons, provided negotiators in Geneva, Switzerland, can complete the accord.

Bush said he hoped to talk with his Soviet counterpart about his "aspirations for Perestroika."

As he said many times, Bush said, "We want to see Perestroika succeed."

"There hasn't been any discussion of agenda," said the President, "items or something we're going to take up."

"We've been on this track for some time. I've elected to remain very quiet in the face of a good deal of sentiment that we've missed an opportunity," he said.

Bush said he wasn't going ahead with the session to gain domestic political points, but "if that be the fallout, so be it."

An earlier Bush meeting with Gorbachev could give the administration an opportunity to underscore its support for the Soviet leader's program for

restructuring the Soviet economy.

Baker said in a speech Oct. 16 that the United States was prepared to provide Moscow with advice and technical assistance. He said the program known as perestroika presented a "historic opportunity" to make a lasting improvement in U.S.-Soviet relations.

In an interview Monday in which a possible summit was not mentioned, Baker said Gorbachev "clearly faces some very major problems."

But, said Baker, "it would be a mistake, notwithstanding that, just to stand pat."

"We ought to try and take advantage of what we think is an opportunity," he said.

Bush's predecessor, Ronald Reagan, initially was skeptical of Soviet motives in arms control negotiations and East-West relations generally. But he held five meetings with Gorbachev after the Soviet leader took power in 1985.

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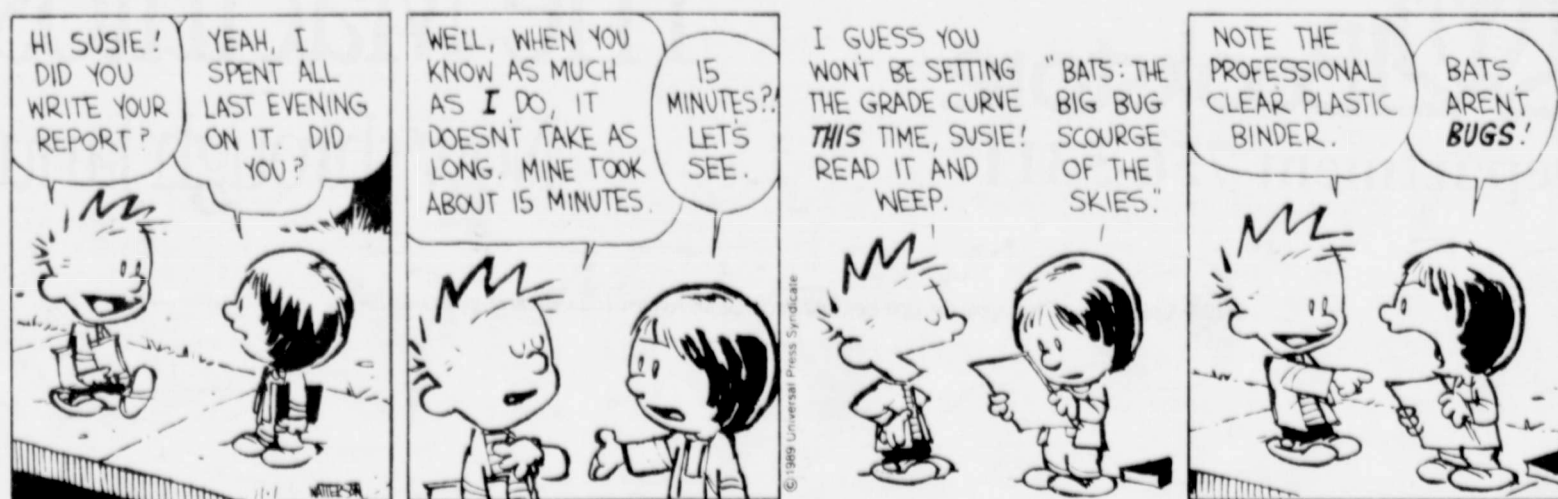
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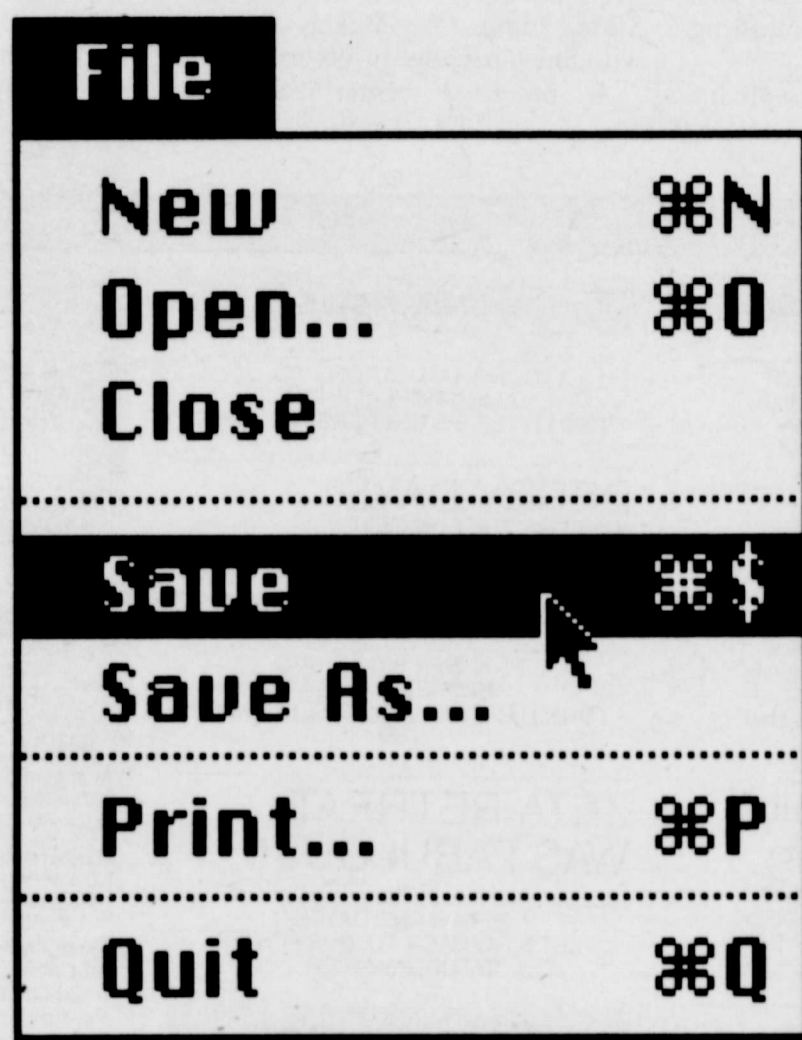
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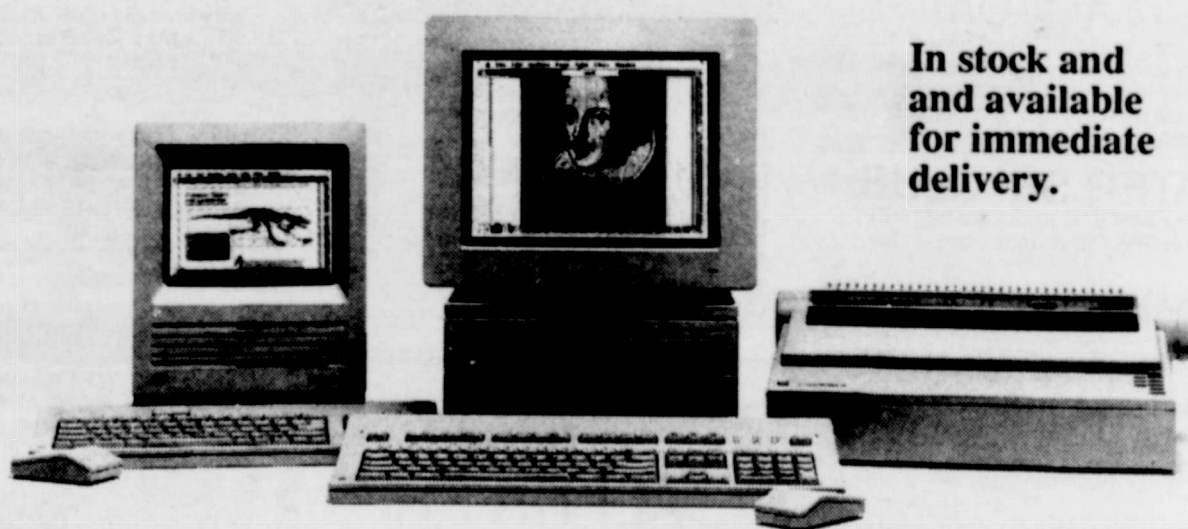
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